

State of Wisconsin Governor's State Trails Council Mission Statement

(As developed by the council given its statutory authority)

It is the mission of the State Trails Council to provide advice and consultation to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding the planning, acquisition, development, and management of state-owned trails, to make recommendations for all trails in Wisconsin, in order to preserve, protect, interpret, and enhance the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the State; and to promote outdoor recreational and educational opportunities for all the people of Wisconsin.

The Council shall represent the public and provide advice and consultation to, the Department on:

1. Promoting and encouraging the safe and responsible use of trails and providing advice and consultation on sharing trails.
2. Developing and promoting a trail use ethic for a safe and positive user experience and to ensure a respect for natural resources.
3. Encouraging all governmental units to develop land-use plans that preserve rights-of-way and corridors for existing trails and the establishment of future trails.
4. Encouraging governmental units, organizations, and individuals to participate in establishing, developing, and maintaining trails.
5. Encouraging private/public partnerships for the purpose of planning, establishing, developing, and maintaining trails.
6. Recommending priorities for trail acquisition and development with an emphasis on trails that establish connections between existing trails and trails that are easily accessed by the people of Wisconsin.
7. Recommending and promoting trail acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations that result in quality opportunities for all trail user groups.
8. Recommending and promoting a rational and stable funding mechanism for trail maintenance and operations.
9. Reviewing funding criteria for the Recreational Trails Program and encouraging eligible sponsors to apply for trail funding grants.
10. Promoting and encouraging trails that meet the diverse interests and abilities of Wisconsin citizens.